

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for assessing a physical exercise facility, comprising the steps of:

inspecting the facility by at least one inspector through at least one on-site inspection of the facility by the at least one inspector; and

rating the facility using a plurality of rating factors derived from the at least one on-site inspection.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of the facility.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the rating factors further include healthfulness of the environment of the facility, competence of trainers utilized by the facility for assisting and guiding the users, and quality, quantity, and variety of exercise equipment available to the users.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the rating factors further include availability of products and services supplied by the facility for use by the users in support of at least one of exercise and health goals of the users.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the rating step includes generating an overall rating for the
2 facility, and wherein the overall rating is a function of the rating factors.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising publishing the overall rating.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising publishing the rating factors.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein publishing the overall rating includes publishing the overall
2 rating on an Internet website.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the Internet website is owned or controlled by an organization
2 that performs the rating step.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the overall rating is an unweighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the overall rating is a weighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users
2 of the facility, and wherein said comradery has a higher weight than any other rating factor

3 utilized for generating said overall rating.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one on-site inspection consists of a plurality of
2 on-site inspections.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one on-site inspection includes an unscheduled
2 inspection by the at least one inspector.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector consists of a plurality of inspectors.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of inspectors includes a male inspector and a
2 female inspector.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector has taken a training course
2 pertinent to performing said inspecting.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the training course was sponsored by an organization that
2 performs the rating step.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector has passed an examination that
2 tests knowledge of physical exercise, health, and dynamics of comradery.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one trained inspector is physically fit, has a
2 physically fit appearance, and has passed a minimum strength test.

1 21. A system for assessing a physical exercise facility, comprising:
2 an inspection team including at least one inspector, said team adapted to inspect the
3 facility through at least one on-site inspection of the facility by the at least one inspector; and
4 an organization adapted to rate the facility using a plurality of rating factors derived from
5 the at least one on-site inspection.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of
2 the facility.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the rating factors further include healthfulness of the
2 environment of the facility, competence of trainers utilized by the facility for assisting and guiding
3 the users, and quality, quantity, and variety of exercise equipment available to the users.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the rating factors further include availability of products and
2 services supplied by the facility for use by the users in support of at least one of exercise and
3 health goals of the users.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the organization is further adapted to generate an overall
2 rating for the facility, and wherein the overall rating is a function of the rating factors.

1 26. The system of claim 25, further comprising means for publishing the overall rating.

1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising means for publishing the rating factors.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein publishing the overall rating includes publishing the overall
2 rating on an Internet website.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the Internet website is owned or controlled by the
2 organization.

1 30. The system of claim 25, wherein the overall rating is an unweighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 31. The system of claim 25, wherein the overall rating is a weighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of
2 the facility, and wherein said comradery has a higher weight than any other rating factor utilized
3 for generating said overall rating.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one on-site inspection consists of a plurality of
2 on-site inspections.

1 34. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one on-site inspection includes an unscheduled
2 inspection by the at least one inspector.

1 35. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one inspector consists of a plurality of
2 inspectors.

1 36. The system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of inspectors includes a male inspector and a
2 female inspector.

1 37. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one inspector has taken a training course
2 pertinent to performing said inspecting.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein the training course was sponsored by the organization.

1 39. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one inspector has passed an examination that
2 tests knowledge of physical exercise, health, and dynamics of comradery.

1 40. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one trained inspector is physically fit, has a
2 physically fit appearance, and has passed a minimum strength test.